

SOCIALIST FEMINISM

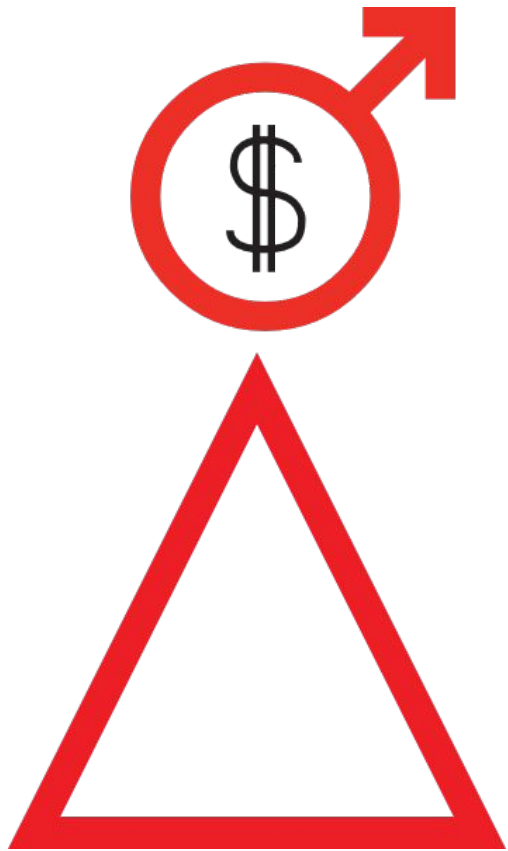


WHAT IS IT?

WHY DO I NEED IT?



Seattle **DSA**
Socialist Feminist Committee
December 2017



What is patriarchy, and why is it useful to capital?

-
- . Patriarchy is a system of domination and social hierarchy benefiting men.
 - . Under capitalism, patriarchy marks some workers as more exploitable than others

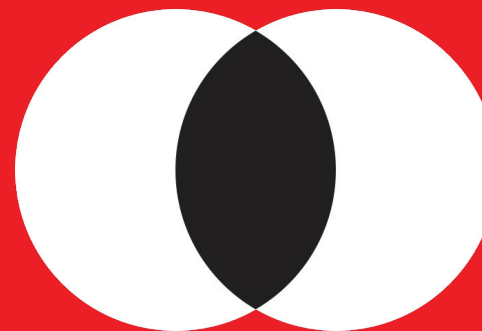
Compounding systems of oppression

Under capitalism, patriarchy works with other systems of exploitation – like white supremacy – to extract profit from oppressed groups. These forms of oppression reinforce each other, to the benefit of capital.

For example, Black and trans women's lives and labor are uniquely devalued under capitalist patriarchy.

Misogynoir =

racism + **misogyny**



Transmisogyny =

transphobia +

misogyny

Intersectional Feminism



Feminism that recognizes the complex relationship between different axes of oppression is intersectional feminism.

Capitalism Needs Patriarchy

Socialist feminist thought requires us to expand our view of capitalist exploitation from the workplace to the home, to unwaged labor, to theft of indigenous land and colonization.



Capitalism creates and exploits divisions in the working class

“If capitalism has been able to reproduce itself it is only because of the web of inequalities that it has built into the body of the world proletariat, and because of its capacity to globalize exploitation.”

–Silvia Federici, *Caliban & the Witch*

Reproductive Labor

Women not only create profit for global capital as workers – they create profit by doing the majority of unpaid and underpaid labor that allows the working class to exist and perpetuate itself.

Although it is often unrewarded, reproductive labor enables wage labor, making it necessary to the creation of surplus value.



How is socialist feminism different from liberal feminism?

Socialist feminists do not seek equal representation within capitalism & other hierarchical systems – we seek to abolish capitalism and all forms of exploitation.

Under capitalism, advances for some women come at the expense of other women and oppressed peoples.





**Socialist feminists
recognize that human
liberation cannot be
achieved until
everyone is free.**

How to practice socialist feminism in daily life

Socialist Feminism isn't about having a title - it's an action! Here are actions you can take to practice socialist feminist principles every day.





Examine Your Privilege

Notice who's in the room.

Notice who's on the reading list.

How do our organizing spaces reflect the actual composition of the working class?

Do this everywhere you go.

2

Listen and be proactive about educating yourself

- Believe survivors. If you feel skeptical of another person's experience, examine where that emotion comes from.
- Seek diverse opinions and listen when they are shared.

3

Speak up (but not over)

- Get involved in conversations about oppression. We all need to be doing this work together.
- Listen, amplify and give credit to marginalized voices in the conversation.
- Ask yourself: does your comment advance the conversation or would it be best to listen in that moment?

4

Acknowledge that you'll make mistakes – and apologize when you do!

- Intent \neq Impact
- Resist the urge to become defensive, make excuses, make light of your mistake, or try to explain it away.
- Apologize swiftly and sincerely and work to do better next time.

5

Get active with SDSA's Socialist Feminist Committee!

- Come to one of our socialist feminist reading groups
- Join us for actions that benefit women in our community - clinic defense, fundraising for abortion access, and more
- Help us work with other committees and working groups to educate our membership about socialist feminism



Remember that solidarity requires action!

-
- Solidarity takes effort.
 - Show up for marginalized comrades and support their organizing.
 - Bring these principles to all the work you do.
 - Because when we organize with Socialist Feminist principles...

...We win!

Anita Prizio

Pittsburgh, PA: DSA-endorsed candidate for city council; ran on increased transparency, greater fracking oversight, and criminal justice reform.

Seema Singh Perez

Knoxville, TN: DSA member & Knoxville's first Indian-American council member ran a campaign focused on reducing domestic violence & ensuring jobs with livable wages.

Denise Joy

Billings, MT: DSA member, won a city council race; proposed a Non Discrimination Ordinance to combat gender discrimination

Ginger Jentzen

Minneapolis, MN: Didn't win but came close! DSA-endorsed Socialist Alternative candidate for the city council and champion of rent control, a \$15 minimum wage & criminal justice reform

Kshama Sawant

Seattle, WA: Seattle's own Socialist Alternative city council member, proponent of a \$15 minimum wage, police accountability, worker protections & affordable housing

LaDawn Stuben

Phoenix, AZ: DSA member & upcoming candidate for AZ state legislature in 2018.

